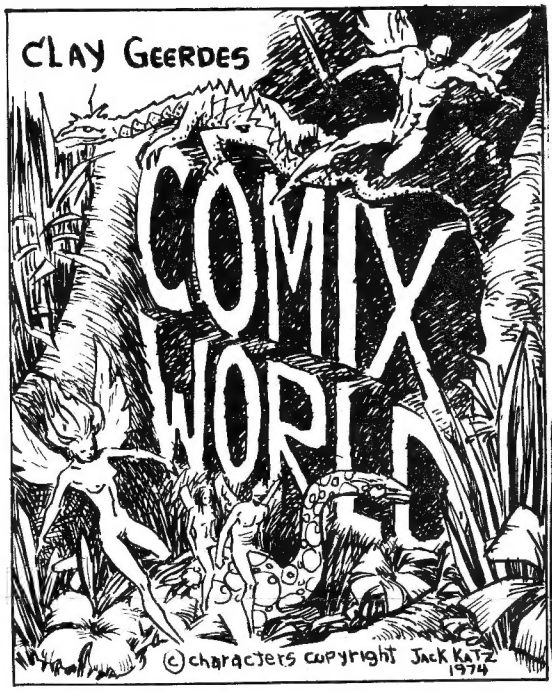

Still involved with that mortal, Selowan? I had to lie for you when you made that journey to earth. You owe me, my sister.
Tedra, let up...Selowan, Mother wants to see you.

IN A FORMAL CHARGE OF HERESY AGAINST HIS SISTER, ADRELAR DISCLOSES BEFORE THEIR FATHER, THE EMPEROR GOD DRANOK, ALL THE INTERVENING ACTIONS SELOWAN HAD TAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE MORTAL SHE DESIRED...
And now because of HER TREACHERY, the sacred soil of HELLEAS VORAN will be VIOLATED!
DO YOUR BROTHER'S WORDS HOLD TRUTH, SELOWAN?
She's incorrigible, Father.
Yes, my Father.
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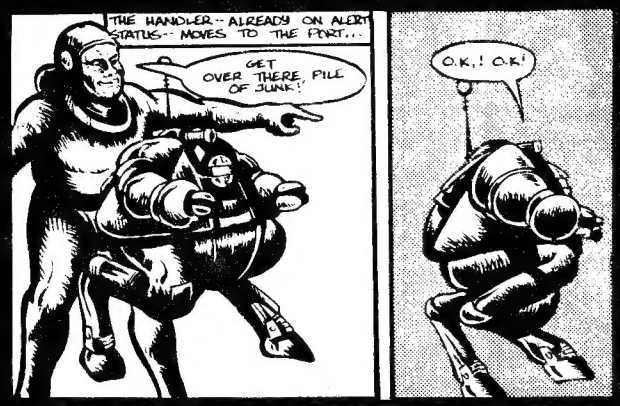
COPYRIGHT: JACK KATZ, 1974

The panels on this page are from the first book of THE FIRST KINGDOM, an epic by Jack Katz. There has never been a comic like this one. It takes the comic book form out of what Katz refers to as its "arrested infancy" and "extends comics to the potential they've always had." The characters in THE FIRST KINGDOM are born, live and die; They incorporate a reality never present in those comics where superheroes have unnatural origins and fulfill careers that show them to be immortal. "I don't know if kids want to identify with characters who can't die," said Katz. "I believe they have an inner dignity, that they will identify with my hero, Darkenmoor, and watch him grow and develop like themselves. I intend to grow my heroes up from childhood, to give them a world they can live in. The potential has always been there, and there have been many artists who have dreamed about going beyond the industry formulae, but none of them ever did it. They got caught up in the day to day factory work and it took so much out of them that they never got around to their own work. About a year and a half ago, I stopped drawing. I sat down and wrote THE FIRST KINGDOM. It took me nine months. 720 pages. It's all done."

Jack Katz is 46. He's been in comics for 30 years. At 16, he was pencilling BULLETMAN and ARCHIE. He did numerous stories for Atlas, Fiction House, Standard, National, Warren, and Skywald. For five years, he worked for King Features Syndicate.

In his introduction to the first volume of his epic, he says: "The work I am undertaking, to execute the illustrated epic THE FIRST KINGDOM, is the first in a series of books in which I hope to extend the dimension of comics to the potential art form that one of the earliest and greatest artists, Hal Foster, laid down the foundations for. This is a novel in which the characters live in front of you, like a silent motion picture. The freedom of the underground press has given me this unusual opportunity to realize every potential I feel this art form capable of expressing."



The panels on this page are from ORB 2. This is a magazine-sized book filled with art and stories reminiscent of WEIRD SCIENCE FANTASY. It's in black and white with the exception of a single color story. $1 from 660½ Bloor St, W. #1, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6G 1K9. . . HARPOON 2, the "Fish Issue," is out. Bill Skurski is now Art Director. He, Jay Kinney, and a few others put out DROOL #1 a couple of years back, one of the few attempts at an ug humor mag a la LAMPOON. Cartoonists in the second HARPOON include: Ned "Smacky Duck" Sonntag, Justin Green, Doug Wildey (a "Rude Romance" entitled "Captain of My Heart"), Paul Kirchner, Ralph Reese, and Jerry Lane (who did MIDDLE-CLASS FANTASIES, the first ug to be accepted by a college as a master's thesis project). $1 from 21 West 26th St., NY 10010. . . . Frank Brunner's FLESH AND FANTASY folio is available from Middle Earth, Box 18372, Denver, Colo., 80218 for $10. Six sexy drawings printed 15x11" on high quality bristol. Frank is at work on a story about Howard, The Duck which will run in giant-sized MAN-THING #4. Steve Gerber wrote the story. . . Barney Steel is back in the Bay Area. A novel finished, he's at work on ARMAGEDDON #4. . Larry Todd has finished cover paintings for BRAIN FANTASY 2 and PARANOIA 2. BF2 is next from Last-Gasp.

THE HANDLER DISCHARGES A TRANQUILIZER DART...
THIS WON'T HURT A BIT.. IT'S EFFECTS ARE ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS!
BUT NOT BEFORE A SMALL CROAK FOR HELP.
RARRRAK
RAAK

That's Barry Smith's CONAN flipping you the birdie on RAGNAROK 3 (456 Orange Rd., Orange, N. J. 07050). Inside are interviews with Smith and Vaughn Bode as well as a lot of art and pix. 75¢ and worth it. In San Francisco, Gary Arlington has some at his store, 3339 23rd St. You didn't know he was there anymore? Yep, 6½ years now. Not too long before he'll qualify as an institution. . . . The word is that Don Donahue's Apex Novelties has taken over distribution of the books published by the Cartoonists Co-op Press. Donahue's APEX TREASURY OF UNDERGROUND COMIX is due out in October. . . . SHORT ORDER 2 should be out this month. It would have been sooner but money problems held up the midwest printing. . . . if you're into forties humor and girly mags, Trent Dunphy has a large quantity at The Magazine, 835 Larkin, San Francisco. He's got copies of BALLYHOO, COLLEGE HUMOR, WINK FILM FUN, EYEFUL, and a number of early LIFES and JUDGES. LIFE, for you uninitiates, was a humor mag before it was sold in the mid-thirties and turned into a photo mag to cash in on the photography fad. First ish was Nov. 23, 1936. It sells for $25 now. Query Trent for prices. He's got a complete line of antique mags. . . . Tim Boxell tells me he did some work for a parody of LAMPOON, THE NATIONAL LAMPRUNE. That one's 50¢ from Bugle-American, 2779 Bremen, Milwaukee, Wis 53212. . . See Rand Holmes' drawing of Salvador Dali on the cover of GEORGIA STRAIGHT (Vol 8, No. 356, Aug. 8-15, 1974)? The GS is at 56-A Powell St. Vancouver, B. C. They'll probably send you a copy for 50¢. . . You serious collectors may want a complete set of the REAL FREE PRESS. A lot of early American funnies as well as ug reprints on high quality book paper. Some in translation but a lot in English. There are 7 issues that I know of. For info & catalog, write Olaf Stoop, Real Free Press, Oude Nieuwstratt 10, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Stoop has a nice comic format reprint of Basil Wolverton's POWERHOUSE PEPPER, probably one of the major influences on Crumb. . . Captain America jumped out of Jack Kirby's brain in 1941 and he's changed a lot over the years but the biggest change is just about to happen. It's got a lot to do with writer Steve Englehart. Cap's familiar red, white, and blue uniform is gone and he's got a new one. A new name, too. Nomad. In the coming months, Englehart plans to fill out the character of Steve Rogers. The change took place in #180 (Dec., 1974). "Captain America lies behind him, buried in the rubble that is politics, 1974." Rogers is described as "a hero free to be his own man." Let's wish Englehart luck. . . . More sixties history. Myra Friedman did PR for Janis Joplin and wrote a book called BURIED ALIVE in which she tells it all. Included is the story of Janis's relations with Crumb over the CHEAP THRILLS album. It's out in paperback now from Bantam. . . . I want to recommend GOOD OLD DAYS for those beautiful reprints of early 20's and 30's Sunday pages. 50¢ from Box 428, Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874. . . . My article, "Anatomy of an Underground Comic" appears in the current issue of NEW YORK REVIEW OF COMICS AND BOOKS (P. O. Box 211, Colonia, N. J. 07067--50¢). I'm in issues #3 and 4. COMIX WORLD is weekly (with an occasional exception) in the Berkeley BARB (reviews of recent ugs and alternative comic material, but I'm into the whole comic trip so don't let pieces like the one I did on Orphan Annie surprise you) and monthly in THE COMIC READER (a listing of recent ugs). BARB is now running Shelton's Fat Freddy's Cat and His Friends. These pages are jammed by Shelton and Dave Sheridan and will be collected into a book early in '75. You can expect the 2d vol. of THE BEST OF RIP-OFF PRESS soon. . . . Buy my back issues. $2 a set. Letters welcome. For answers, send an SASE. . . . Oh, Jack's FIRST KINGDOM was published by Comics & Comix, 2512 Telegraph in Berkeley. Buy a dozen. 9/2